

I oppose the petition of the NCVEC (RM-10787). However, elimination of the 5 wpm requirement at this time would be premature.

In my submittal to the Commission (RM-10354), not yet acted upon, I argued that much broader HF CW privileges be granted Novice/TechPlus/Tech-with-code certificates, as well as limited expansion of HF SSB privileges. It seemed to me at the time I submitted the petition (April 2001) that giving newer hams greater opportunity to make contacts on the HF bands (using CW) would be a sensible means of creating an incentive for radio amateurs to "move up" in the license structure. I still do.

(The American Radio Relay League [ARRL] in March 2002 submitted a petition similar to, but not identical with, my petition [RM-10413]. The ARRL's petition had the broad support of the radio amateur community and that fact in and of itself recommends it for immediate approval.)

As my and the ARRL's petitions are easily conflated, I hope the Commission soon will rule favorably on them. Assuming it does so, then I believe the changes envisioned in these earlier petitions should be allowed some time to ferment--say for a few years--before any decision is reached regarding the code/no code question. If the much greater HF operating privileges accorded newer hams prove to be less than successful in attracting new members to the amateur radio service, and in retaining already-licensed radio amateurs, then it would be timely at that point for the FCC to consider whether abolishing the code requirement for HF privileges is advisable.

It makes sense to take these issues one step at a time.